

# The Real Meaning of Wealth

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What does the word “wealth” mean to you? The answer to this may be different for each individual because we have different personalities. The word “wealth” involves both “material wealth” and “spiritual wealth”. In the restoration era after the war and in the economical developing era, the word “wealth” has meant material wealth”. However, what I want to emphasize is that “material wealth” is not enough for our happiness.

I think everyone knows about the most famous movie, “Roman Holiday”. The story is that the princess Ann played by Audrey Hepburn was leading a rich life at the palace, but she wasn’t given freedom to do whatever she wanted, which was very stressful for her. Then, one night she got out of the palace secretly to enjoy freedom for only one day. She met a nice man in Rome, and fell in love with him immediately. What she really wanted was freedom so she finally experienced non-material wealth. This movie made me think about “What is the real wealth for me”. I live in Japan where I can live a materially happy life. But I realized what is the most important for me. That is, to have room in my heart. If you have room in your heart, you can find the pleasure of seeing a beautiful clear sky in the day time and beautiful stars at night. Also you can appreciate tiny things which you don’t usually notice. These make your life very content.

Now in Japan I sometimes think, we are surrounded with so much material wealth, but not so much spiritual wealth. For example, you know, we have a lot of problems which come from the lack of spiritual wealth such as depression, overworking, suicide, bullying and so on. Especially, suicide and bullying have a close relationship. It’s sad to say, that more and more junior high school students put an end to their lives because of bullying. I believe this shows that both bullies and bullied children don’t have spiritual wealth. So I suggest that we should give moral education to students. My feeling is that moral education is not considered very important in school education. If

we give moral education to students more, they can have spiritual wealth and these kinds of problems will be solved.

From my own experience, my father passed away when I was two years old. Since then, my mother has raised me all by herself. So, we have been at an economic disadvantage compared with other average families. I may be living a harder life, but I have never felt unhappy about it. That is because my mother has given me lots of love and kept me satisfied spiritually. I am confident to say that what matters the most for us is “spiritual wealth”. Now, it is time to think about the real meaning of the wealth.